Study seeks Appomattox boundary definition

A study in underway to determine the exact boundary lines between the counties of Appomattox and Campbell. It is scheduled for completion by the middle of the summer.

F.T.Seargent, Appomattox surveyor, appointed by Appomattox County as representative of the Appomattox County Office of Commissioner of Revenue is working in conjunction with the Campbell County Office of Commissioner of Revenue to re-establish the lines between the counties mainly for the purpose of taxation.

"Although this is being done primarily for the purpose of taxation, it is needed for the police department, health department, and fire department of each county. The people living on the edge of each county need to know to whom they may turn for help in each of these situations," said Seargent.

Markers were erected in 1845 when Appomattox County was formed and again in 1848 when it annexed a portion of Campbell Caounty but over the years these markers have disappeared. Because of this, landowners living near the county lines have purchased land that is in the other county.

"We are using aerial photographs taken in March 1983 along with old deeds, tax maps to determine the location of the original markers," Seargent said.

While it is not known just how many people will be affected when the maps determined it is possible some landowners with land in both Appomattox and Campbell County will pay taxes for that portion of land in each county's jurisdiction. The voting location of landowners with property in both counties will be determined by the location of his dwelling. He will vote in county in which he resides.

County landowners will be contacted before the change and informed concerning taxation and as to what their furture taxes will be.

New land falling within Appomattox County boundary lines will be reassessed and taxed accordingly.

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Annular eclipse

Sun will darken in county today

The sun will darken in Appomattox County shortly after noon today (Wednesday) when the moon passes in front of it in a rare broken annular eclipse.

According to information from the Virginia Tech Public Affairs Office the maximum eclipse in this area will be approximately 97 percent and will occur at 12:39 p.m.

An eclipse occurs when the moon passes in front of the sun. An annular eclipse happens when the moon appears just slightly smaller than the sun, consequently a small halo of light still shows around the darkened center. But the moon's surface isn't completely smooth, there are peaks and valleys. This means that the ring of sunlight is broken into segments, hence the name, broken annular eclipse and the rarity of the event.

Similar eclipses occurred in 1912, 1930, 1948 and 1966. However none of these were visable in Virginia, but this time Virginia will be the best place for eclipse watching.

In most parts of Virginia, the partial eclipse will start around 11:10 a.m. and end around 2:15 p.m. The broken annular eclipse itself will occur in most localities around 12:40 p.m. and will last all of seven seconds.

"Around 12:40 it will grow darker outside as the moon's shadow races across the state. But don't expect total darkness; at best it will resemble dusk," said Brain Dennison, astronomer and Virginia Tech associate professor of physics.

Dennison's main concern with this upcoming eclipse is the safety of those who watch it. "In 1970 there was a total eclipse in this area and there were something like 140 cases of eye damage," he noted. Those individuals watching are warned to be careful.

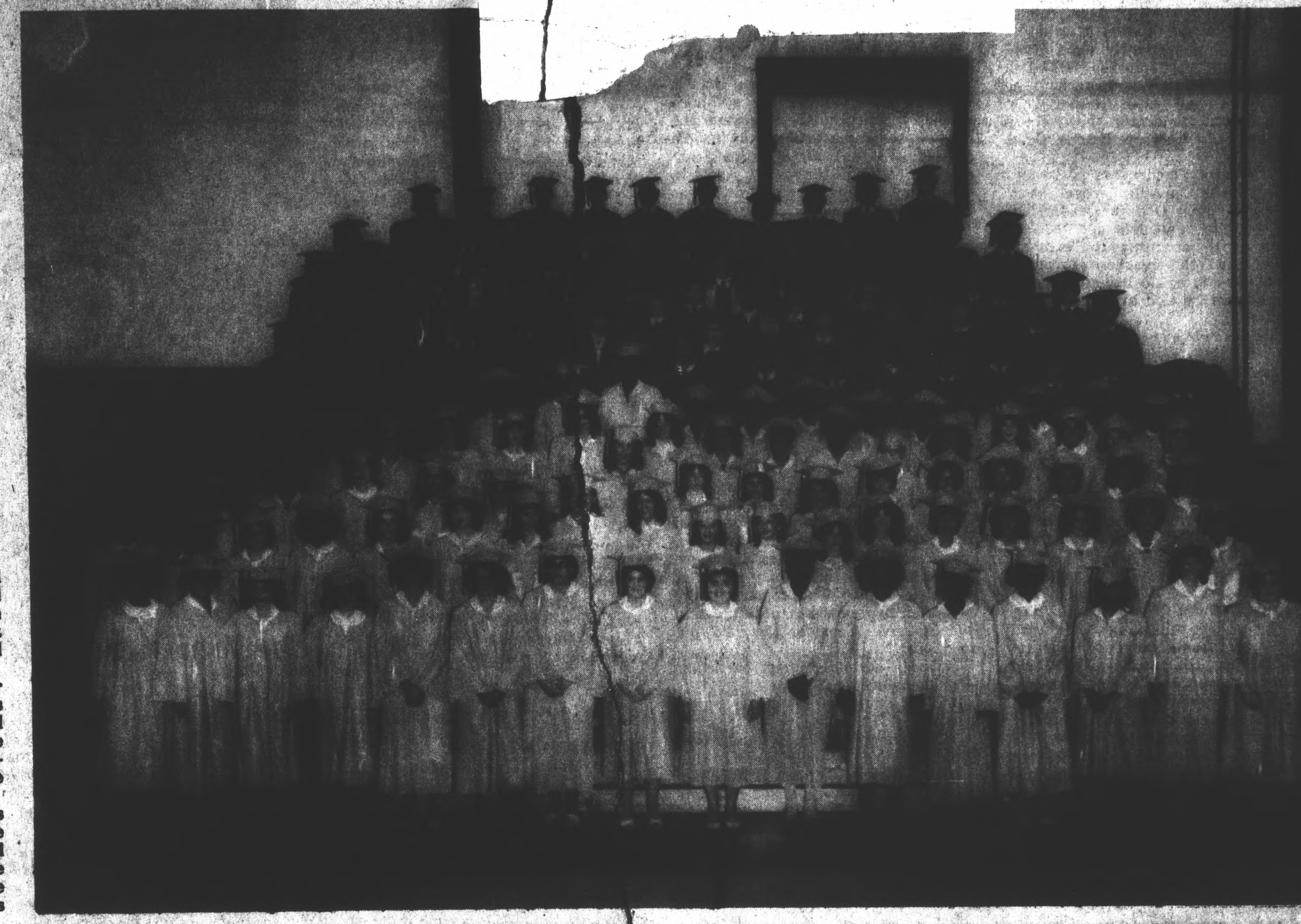
There's only one safe way to look directly at the eclipse and that's through #14 welder's glasses. Under no circumstances should an individual look at the eclipse with the naked eye.

Suspect in custody

A 19-year-old Appomattox County man was in custody this week after being arrested in connection with the rape of an elderly Appomattox woman.

Darnell Jones, of Route 1, Appomattox, was charged with rape and breaking and entering in connection with the incident, which occured last Monday evening, May 21, about 5:30 p.m.

The attack was reported at 7:10 p.m., and Jones was arrested in the Promise Land area about 7:30.



Class of '84

THE CLASS OF 1984 at Appomattox County High School will graduate this Friday night at 8 p.m. at Bragg Stadium, behind Appomattox Middle School. In the event of inclement weather, the graduation exercises will be held inside the gymnasium at Appomattox County High School. The graduating seniors of the Class of 1984 are featured in a special section inside the Times-Virginian this week. The section also features stories on this year's honor graduates, valedictorians and salutatorians. (Photo by Sheater B. Robertson)

Dr. Clyde O'Brien: 50 years of service in county

By FRANCES ABBITT

In the year 1910, in the City of Lynchburg, a little boy was born to a fine family, James Howard O'Brien and his wife, Nettie Conner O'Brien. He was the first son, a lovable little boy and everything was fine until he reached the age of four. At about this time Clyde Garvice O'Brien learned how to throw rocks...and throw rocks he did, at the houses of neighbors, breaking windows. Spanking did little good, he just kept throwing rocks.

Finally his parents hit upon a solution, they would send little Clyde to live with his grandparents Jennings and Lucy Conner in Appomattox. In the country he would have room to throw rocks with no nearby neighbors to complain. They probably wondered, as they made the necessary arrangements for their son to move to the country, what in the world is to become of this rock-throwing son of ours?

Little did they realize their son, the rock-throwing little rascal, would become a doctor. Nor just any doctor, but one so dedicated that a town would set aside a special day in his honor, remembering all the contributions he made to the health and welfare of Appomattox as a doctor and his participation in so many civic, charitable, and church activities. They had no way of knowing he would become one of the best-loved, most respected mem of the area. A few years later the O'Brien family moved from Lynchburg to Appomattox.

Clyde O'Brien finally stopped throwing rocks and began school at the local school, both elementary and high school under one roof, located where Appomattox Middle School is today.

Following high school, Clyde went to work on his father's farm for the summer and in the fall began studying at the University of Richmond, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in three years.

Following the University of Richmond Clyde attended the Medical College of Virginia. It was hard work but he knew that when he earned the title "Doctor" the hard work paid off and he had reached his goal.

In speaking of his college days Clyde said, "They were hard days with a lot of work but I knew what I wanted. As far as I am concerned, going to college is worth nothing unless you have a purpose, a goal. I read somewhere that a degree and 55 cents would get you a cup of coffee," he added with a laugh.

In May 1934 when Clyde and his classmates had completed the final examinations for their senior year, they were more than a bit apprehensive. While waiting for the outcome, they decided to go fishing. That night they returned to the basement at MCV to inspect the mailboxes.

"Each of my classmates received a letter of congratulations and they were addressed as "Doctors." There was no letter for me. Boy, how I hated to go to my boarding house and face my roommate.

"Slowly he walked to his room and opened the door and to his surprise he was greated by his roommate with a letter. Hurrying to open it he read, "Dear Doctor...." He had make it and he was happy.

"I always wanted to practice medicine in Appomattox, I never considered practicing any other place than here at home," Clyde said.

In 1934 Dr. Clyde O'Brien came to Appomattox and hung out his shingle. His first office was located on Lee-Grant Avenue in the home owned today by Mr. and Mrs. H. Webster Babcock. The next location was on the upper floor of the old Times-Virginian building on Main Street.

In 1942 he built an office across the street from where his present office is located. Except for a two-year stint in the navy, he has practiced medicine in Appomattox ever since.

"Do you know what my education cost?" he asked with a smile. "My entire college and medical school education cost my father $5,000."

"Things weren't as expensive as today. I bought a new Chevrolet car when I came here. It cost $500.00 and I drove that thing for a long time," he added.

In 1936 Clyde married the former Ellen Schweizer of Wheeling, W. Va. She has been his faithful compainion ever since. In the early days of their marriage she accompanied her doctor husband on house calls and on occasion even went with him when he transported a patient to the hospital.

"Not only did I go with Clyde when he took patients to the hospital, but he often had to assist the surgeon when he got there and on several occasions I was permitted to watch the procedure. Nothing like that would be allowed today, of course," she said.

On the average Clyde delivered approximately 100 babies in a year until he discontinued this part of his practice in 1946.

If a patient needs care, Clyde O'Brien doesn't stop to ask himself, "Can he pay?" His only thought is doing the best he can for his fellow man, anytime, anywhere; he cares about people and it shows in his life.

"I have a lot of friends, both black and white," he said. "And my friends are important to me."

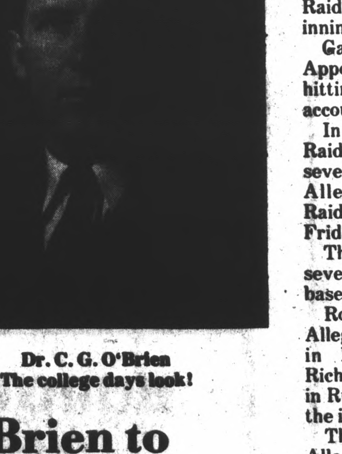
Clyde O'Brien loves to talk with his friends but doesn't like to talk about himself. Try to talk with him about his accomplishments and he'll shake his head, "It's not me, but Him," pointing heavenward. He gives credit for his success to God. He is an active member of Liberty Baptist Church.

Clyde and Ellen are the parents of two daughters, Kitty Lou Clifton and Susan Nell Moore. They have four grandchildren.

In 1982 Dr. O'Brien underwent surgery for rupture of dissecting aortic aneurysm but bounced back to his energetic self in no time.

He insists that he will retire in the near future, but who knows? A man of his talents and energy just may go on forever!

Clyde O'Brien, celebrating fifty years in medicine, is a special man to many people.



Dr. C. G. O'Brien
The college days look!

O'Brien to be honored

Appomattox Mayor Ronald C. Spiggle and the Appomattox Town Council have declared Saturday, June 2 to be Clyde G. O'Brien Day in Appomattox.

A plaque will be presented to Dr. O'Brien for his outstanding service during the past fifty years in the practice of medicine in Appomattox.

Appomattox area citizens are asked to take a few minutes during the day on June 2 to pause whereever they are and say a prayer of thanksgiving for Clyde G. O'Brien, the man and the doctor and for what he means to the community.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Greetings. A peep at the June calendar shows: Flag Day the 14th, Father's Day the 17th, and Summer begins the 21st. Also remembrance of D-Day, June 6. A Penumbral Eclipse of the Moon June 13 and the Longest Day of the Year June 21. Plus assorted birthdays and anniversaries. Big deal in 1834, June 14, Isaac Fisher, Jr. Patented sandpaper. But maybe the big day for YOU will be vacation, a trip to the Beach, a new car or things growing in your yard and garden.

My friend, J.E. Jamerson reports a highly successful fishing trip off Virginia Beach. Out in the deep water, 61 bluefish were landed. He also reported a tremendous crowd at the Beach. Hardly room to stand up much less stretch out on the sand.

Thanks to Richard Austin for bringing me an interesting brochure about Westvaco's Buffalo Creek Nature Area. (On the back cover was a list of scientific names for common trees and plants. Such as: Rhus glabra from sumac, acer rubrum for Red Maple, rhus radicans for poison ivy and Pinus taeda for Loblolly Pine.

Fine program at the Court House Square Sunday at 2 p.m. for Memorial Day. Hon. W.C. Daniel speaker and the local high school band entertained. Saw many old friends. Such as George Wiley Wooldridge, World War I vet., and "Dick" Childress, who gave me a book entitled "We Must Defend America." Thanks to the Legion and Auxiliary, program sponsors.

Col. Gerald Harty, of Walton Drive, Appomattox, dropped by to bring me a May 20-21 copy of The Athens News, Athens, Greece. Wow! And Mrs. Harty (Rosetta). Just back from a trip to Athens, and they have a daughter stationed there now. Col. Harty is quite an author, with eleven published books plus the latest, "Condo Mania" which carries a cover drawing by Mrs. Harty. Originally from New Jersey, Col. Harty spent twenty-five years in the Air Force. Came to Appomattox from Florida. Got my gift of "Condo Mania" autographed by The Colonel and His Lady. Do hope they will like Central Virginia and will visit me again.

Which reminds me that a number of fine people from the Garden State of New Jersey have moved to Appomattox in recent years and added greatly to our community.

Met at church Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Art Alderfer. Here from Souderton, Penn., just north of Philly.

ACHS tennis star, Freddie Lawson, took third place in the Group AA boys tennis championship held in Christiansburg. Proud of you, Freddie. And Hurrah for the ACHS baseball team.

Thanks for reading and see ya around.

Raiders avenge '83 loss with Region III title

A year ago, Appomattox County High School's varsity baseball team was denied the Region III title in a championship game against Alleghany which many locals felt was wrought with poor umpiring.

Last week coach Howard Clabough's Raiders avenged the 1983 regional loss with wins over Alleghany and Martinsville Tuesday, and a 5-3 victory against Tunstall Friday for the Region III crown.

In Tuesday's 12-5 Raider victory against Martinsville, Appomattox used six hits in the sixth inning to break a 5-5 tie and take an 11-5 lead. The Raiders' final run came in the seventh innings.

Gary Ferguson had the big bat for Appomattox in the Martinsville game, hitting two three-run homers to account for half of the Raiders' runs.

In the late-game Wednesday, the Raiders accepted two gift runs in the seventh inning for a 5-3 win against Alleghany, which advanced the Raiders to the Region III title game Friday night.

The score was tied at 3-3 in the seventh, and Appomattox had the bases loaded.

Ron Kelso drew a base on balls from Alleghany pitcher Scott Hollie to force in Mike Jackson, then Kenny Richardson was hit by a pitch to force in Russell Walton for the second run of the inning.

The Raiders held fast in the Alleghany half of the seventh to preserve the two-run lead and the 5-3 victory.

Southpaw reliever Tim Austin was instrumental in both of Appomattox's wins Tuesday, as he was in Friday's 5-3 championship win against Tunstall.

Austin provided relief at the mound for three and 2/3 innings against Martinsville, and for three and a third innings against Alleghany.

Tunstall got to look at Austin's mixture of off-speed pitches and fastballs Friday for five and a third innings, during which time the left-hander shut down Tunstall, but for a lone run off a solo homer in the fifth inning.

The Raiders tied the game in the third inning at 2-2, then scored three in the fifth inning to build an insurmountable lead. Paul Johnson and Mike Jackson led off the fifth with hits, then advanced a base on a passed ball.

Russell Walton hit a sacrifice fly to drive in Johnson for a 3-2 Raider lead. Mike Ferguson then singled to drive in Jackson, and he was advanced to second base when R.L. Waldo followed with a single to left field.

Ferguson scored the Raiders' final run when Neal Kelso doubled against right field wall.

Tunstall's Eddie Fulton got back one of those runs in the Trojans' half of the sixth inning with his solo blast, but Austin shut down Tunstall for the remainder of the game to preserve the Raiders' claim to the regional title.

The Raiders, with a 17-6 record, were scheduled to play Abington Tuesday night at the Appomattox Town Ball Park in the first round of the state tournament.

The winner of that game will play the winner of the Region I - Region II contest Friday night.

Ruritans plan benefit

The four Appomattox County Ruritan Clubs, Evergreen, Oakville, Pamplin and Spout Spring are jointly sponsoring the second annual Appomattox Draft Horse Pull on June 9 beginning at 6 p.m. one mile east of Appomattox on Route 24 near Parkway Mobile Home Park. Proceeds from this year's pull will go to the Linda Booth Fund.

Weigh-in time is 3 p.m. June 9 and there will be two classes for competition; light - 3200 pounds and under and heavy - 3201 and over.

Admission is $4.50 for advance tickets and $5.00 at the door; children under 12, advance tickets $2.50 and $3.00 at the door.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks will be available at concession stands.

All proceeds will go to the Linda Booth Fund to help defray cost of medical care following farm accident last summer.

MAY